- There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.
- Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.
- Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.
- Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spareparts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation and Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.

4. Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Centre and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

Availability of cultivative land for irrigation

†4083. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to reconstitution of Bihar in 2000 and its partition thereafter, cultivable land has decreased;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the second report of State Irrigation Commission, the irrigation capacity of the available cultivable land could not be fully regenerated; and

(c) if so, what is the approach of Government indicating the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) As per the information made available by Government of Bihar, the gross cultivable area of undivided Bihar was 108.02 lakh hectare whereas after bifurcation of the State, the gross cultivable area of Bihar State is 79.57 lakh hectare.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the information made available by the Government of Bihar, the unltimate irrigation potential from major and medium irrigation schemes is 53.53 lakh hectare out of which 26.19 lakh hectare has been created till March, 2005.

(c) As per the information made available by Government of Bihar, the State Government has taken up various major and medium irrigation projects to create additional irrigation potential of 3.53 lakh hectare by the end of year 2009-10.

Polavarm Dam

4084. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the annual siltation estimated by the technical agencies at the proposed Polavaram Dam across the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh for the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that technically dams built near mouth of river will involve greater level of siltation;

(c) whether Government at any point of time propose to suggest alternate sites which would be better in terms of cost effectiveness and technical feasibility;

(d) if not, what steps will be taken by Government to intervene and offer technical advice on site and shape of dams across the river Godavari; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the estimation of siltation in the Polavaram Dam would be 61.73 thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft) for 50 years and 78.98 TMC ft for 100 years. On an average it would be 0.7898 TMC ft/year.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the rate of siltation in dams build near mouth of the river will depend upon upstream storage reservoirs.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that in the case of Polavaram Dam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has selected the present location after studying thirteen possible alternative sites.